

## CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An elevator belt assembly, comprising:  
a plurality of cords aligned generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the belt; and  
a jacket over the cords, the jacket including a plurality of grooves spaced longitudinally on at least one side of the jacket such that spacings between adjacent grooves vary along a length of the belt assembly.
2. The assembly of claim 1, wherein three sequential ones of the spacings between the grooves are all different from one another.
3. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the grooves extend across the width of the jacket and wherein at least a portion of each of the grooves is aligned not perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the belt.
4. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the grooves extend across the width of the jacket and wherein the grooves are aligned generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the belt.
5. The assembly of claim 1, wherein each groove comprises a plurality of line segments and at least one of the segments is at a non-right angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the belt.

6. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the cords comprise steel wires and the jacket comprises an elastomer.
7. The assembly of claim 6, wherein the elastomer comprises polyurethane.

8. An elevator belt assembly, comprising:  
a plurality of cords aligned generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the belt; and  
a jacket over the cords and including a plurality of longitudinally spaced grooves on at least one side of the jacket, at least a portion of each groove being not perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.
9. The assembly of claim 8, wherein spacings between adjacent grooves vary along a length of the belt assembly.
10. The assembly of claim 8, wherein the grooves extend across the width of the jacket and wherein each groove comprises a generally straight line.
11. The assembly of claim 8, wherein the grooves extend across the width of the jacket and wherein each groove comprises a plurality of line segments, wherein at least one of the segments is at an acute angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the belt.
12. The assembly of claim 11, wherein each line segment of a particular one of the grooves is at a different angle relative to the longitudinal axis.
13. The assembly of claim 8, wherein the cords comprise steel wires and the jacket comprises an elastomer.

14. The assembly of claim 13, wherein the elastomer comprises polyurethane.

15. A method of making an elevator belt assembly having a plurality of cords within a jacket, comprising the steps of:

- (a) aligning the plurality of cords in a selected arrangement; and
- (b) applying the jacket to the cords while supporting the cords such that the applied jacket includes a plurality of longitudinally spaced grooves formed in the jacket where the grooves are at least one of
  - disposed at least in part at a non-right angle to the longitudinal axis, and
  - spaced at varying longitudinal intervals.

16. The method of claim 15 including spacing the grooves such that three sequential spacings between the grooves are all different from each other.

17. The method of claim 15 wherein the grooves are aligned generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the belt.

18. The method of claim 15 wherein at least a portion of each of the grooves is aligned at an acute angle to the longitudinal axis of the belt.

19. An elevator belt, comprising:

a plurality of cords aligned generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of the belt; and

a jacket over the cords and having a plurality of longitudinally spaced grooves on a side of the jacket, the grooves being at least one of disposed in part at a non-right angle to the longitudinal axis, and spaced at varying longitudinal intervals.

20. The belt of claim 19 wherein the grooves are disposed at least in part at a non-right angle to the longitudinal axis and spaced at varying longitudinal intervals.

21. The elevator belt of claim 19, wherein three sequential ones of the longitudinal intervals are all different from each other.

22. The elevator belt of claim 19, wherein a first portion of each groove is disposed at a first non-right angle to the longitudinal axis and a second portion of each groove is disposed at a second non-right angle to the longitudinal axis.